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## BOOK REVIEWS.

*A Treatise on the Law of Trusts and Trustees.* By James Ware Perry. Fifth Edition, by John M. Gould. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1899. Sheep, 2 Vols.

The history of the law of trusts from its early beginnings in *Fidei Commissa* through the English "use" down to the present day, has been characterized by an almost continuous growth and expansion. Courts have extended the application of its general principles to almost every relation in life or course of dealing, and with the commercial progress of the present century and its attendant complexity of business and social relations this extension has been very rapid, and the subject becomes of great importance to the modern lawyer. Mr. Perry's text is too well and favorably known and too generally embodied in judicial opinions to need any commendation or praise, but as the decisions of the ten years which have elapsed since its last edition, have not only extended the field of cases to which the author's general rules are applied, but also have qualified or limited his statement of some of these rules, the present and fifth edition will be welcomed by the legal profession generally. Mr. Gould has left the text of the fourth edition unchanged, but in footnotes and citations has indicated and illustrated the lines of departure. His notes are are very full and show the great care with which the edition has been prepared.

*The Law of Presumptive Evidence.* By John D. Lawson, LL.D., Professor of Contract and International Law in the University of the State of Missouri. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Sheep, pp. 674. Central Law Journal Co., St. Louis, 1899.

It has been frequently pointed out in the books that many presumptions commonly called rules of evidence are purely rules of substantive law. But their authority to be treated under the head of evidence rests upon prescription, and we think the distinction will continue to be noticed merely for purposes of illustration.

The author, from an exhaustive examination of cases, has deduced 139 rules which he sets forth as the law governing presumptions. Under each rule, as stated, a set of illustrations is given, taken from decided cases, with a further commentary, showing the conflict of authorities wherever it exists upon any rule.

The scheme, as developed by the author, is an original one of very great merit. The book is, practically, in form, a codification of the law on this subject.

*First Steps in International Law.* By Sir Sherston Baker, Bart. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1899. Cloth, pp. 428.

The questions of international law raised during the late war between Spain and the United States concerning the rules of warfare and the position of neutrals, together with the English claim of the right of suzerainty in the Transvaal, and the advent of our own government under the direction of the present administration into the field of colonial expansion, whether we call it according to the dictates of our own conscience, "imperialism," or "manifest destiny," has increased the desire of the intellectual American public to know more concerning the first causes of war, the position of neutrals, the sovereignty of States and the rights of independence and self-preservation.

The present treatise explains fully the great underlying principles of international law in easy language and fascinating manner, and deserves its title because of the clearness of its style for the general reader, and not because of its failure to fully elucidate the questions discussed.